

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 21-24, 29, 30 and 34-38 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record, inter alia, fails to show a system and method wherein said local retailer is different than said server and different from said one of said order fulfillment locations. The prior art also fails to show that said programming maintains information which, for plural different items in said inventory management system, indicates whether said items are from returns.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RUSSELL S. GLASS whose telephone number is (571)272-7285. The examiner can normally be reached on FULL TIME.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MATTHEW GART can be reached on 571-272-3955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3687

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/RUSSELL S GLASS/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3687